

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 and 14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, allowable claims 6, 7 and 14 are rewritten into independent form, claims 2-4 are amended to depend from claim 6, claims 2-7 and 14 are amended to place these claims in better form for U.S. practice, and claims 1, 8-13, 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Tran in the January 10, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is as follows: during the interview, Applicants' representative explained that Suzuki's generator 3 does not charge a battery 9 when the temperature of a catalytic converter 11 in the engine exhaust system is higher than a predetermined temperature, as recited in previous independent claim 1. Suzuki merely teaches that the generator 3 charges a battery 9 during deceleration, not when the temperature of a catalytic converter 11 in the engine exhaust system is higher than a predetermined temperature.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 6, 7 and 10-14 recite allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, claims 6, 7 and 14 are rewritten into independent form including all of the features of base claim 1. Claim 14 also includes the features of intervening claim 2. Thus, claims 6, 7 and 14, and dependent claims 2-5, are allowable.

II. Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai, JP-A-10-280990, in view of Suzuki et al. (Suzuki), U.S. Patent No. 6,595,307; and rejects claims

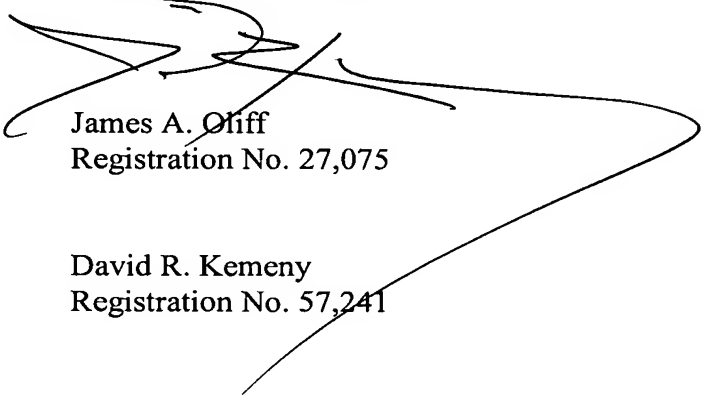
4, 5, 9, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai in view of Suzuki, and further in view of Urasawa et al. (Urasawa), U.S. Patent No. 6,569,055. The rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1, 8, 9, 15 and 16 and the amendment to claim 6 discussed above.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DRK/sxl

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 10, 2008

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